Besides being lonely, and despite her masturbatory dream, Miss Dickens was ignorant of her own sexuality or, as she herself put it, "I had never been unwell each month at that time [15 years old], and knew nothing of a woman's life, for mother never told me anything." There seems to have been some hostility between the two women. When her parents separated over her father's drinking, she asserted that "if I had been a man married to the woman he was married to, I should have drunk a great deal more." Her mother is a cause of her frequent "appearances" at the Asylum, "worse for my nerves, than any red flag ever was to a bull's nerves."

Her 18 readmissions notwithstanding, Miss Dickens continues to marrate clearly and circumstantially her first admission to the Toronto Asylum, on September 30, 1896. On April 7, 1922, she tells Dr. Ross how when she 16 years old she became hysterical during a storm, and Dr. James Murray Johnstone gave her "ten different kinds of medicine" which made her "devilish" and sent her to jail. Although the jail doctor, Dr. Richardson, insisted that she was "no more insane than he was," she was "herded" with criminals and prostitutes. The Matron introduced her to the Prisoners' Aid Association as a street-walker, but one of the workers, a Miss Roxy Wood, recongnized her and pointed out the mistake. After her release she had gone to work, but cried herself to sleep every night thinking about her ordeal, which never would happened had her father been around. Her parents had been separated and her father had remained in Canada just long enough to watch her recover from her bout of typhoid, then had returned to England. Her mother never wanted her, and told her lies about her father.

Six weeks after her release she was sent back to gaol. Her lawyer was unable to do anything for her as the judge had already signed the papers. She was committed to the Asylum, where Dr. Daniel Clark swore "I was not insane."

Mr. O'Reilly provides some background to his admission narrative in a letter to his wife. He begins this relation of marital strife with an argument over a suit of clothes which he is angrily returning as "I never wore a store suit in my life." Moreover, he does not want to accept anything from "an untrue and an unfaithful wife as what you have proved you're self to be." He lists his grievances, beginning with her requesting him, one hour after their marriage on